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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND
REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 8 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative
of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement that was issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the political situation in Myanmar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 113 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) John H. F. CAMPBELL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 5 July 1996 by the Presidency on behalf
of the European Union on the political situation in Myanmar

The European Union is deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration of the political situation in Myanmar. It expresses continued strong concern with regard to restrictions on the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, movement and association.

The European Union reiterates its call upon the State Law and Order Restoration Council to implement, without delay, respect for human rights. It strongly urges the State Law and Order Restoration Council to release, immediately and unconditionally, those members of the National League for Democracy who are still detained, including Mr. Aye Win and Mr. Win Htein, and all other political prisoners. In addition, the European Union calls upon the United Nations Special Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Imprisonment to visit Myanmar.

The European Union calls upon the State Law and Order Restoration Council to enter into meaningful dialogue with Daw Aung Sang Suu Kyi, and other representatives of the pro-democracy groups, as well as with national minorities in Myanmar, to bring about national reconciliation and democratic reform respecting the aspirations of the people of Myanmar as expressed in the elections of May 1990.

The European Union expects a full and satisfactory explanation from the Myanmar authorities of the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death in custody, on 22 June 1996, of the late Mr. James Leander Nichols, who had served as Honorary Consul for several European States. The European Union calls for an investigation by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar into the death of Mr. Nichols.

The European Union urges all parties in Myanmar to refrain from actions that would cause a further deterioration in the situation.

The European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Association, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Romania align themselves with this statement.
